

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 1 depicts a SONET network 100 adapted to carry digital video data according to one embodiment of the present invention. Four SONET add/drop multiplexers (ADMs) 102A-102D are connected together in a bi-directional ring configuration. Each ADM may be an ONS-15454 available from Cisco Systems of San Jose, California. The ring configuration and equipment type are of course only particular features of one example. A 10 Gbps signal (OC-192) signal is carried around the ring with various payload constituents being added and dropped by the ADMs 102A-102D. This data rate is also merely representative. By use of appropriate wavelength multiplexers and demultiplexers (not shown), multiple such signals may be carried by the same optical fiber.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 with the following paragraph:

In Fig. 1, one of the SONET ADMs 102A is equipped with a video/SONET interface 104 that can either remove or insert a digital video signal to or from the SONET signal flowing through one of SONET ADMs 102A. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the digital video signal may be either a serial digital video data stream or a stream of digital video packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 with the following paragraph:

An example of a digital video data stream standard is the ANSI/SMPTE 259 M-1997 standard published in 1997 by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes. The standard is used for video production and distribution and is herein referred to as Serial Digital Interface (SDI). Another example of a digital video data distribution is the ~~SMTPE~~ SMPTE 305.2M-2000 standard published in 2000, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes. This standard is intended for packetized video distribution and is herein after referred to as Serial Data Transport Interface (SDTI). Embodiments of the present invention can also accommodate high definition counterparts to the SDI and SDTI standard by using a higher capacity virtual concatenation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 5 illustrates the frame structure used for digital video data according to one embodiment of the present invention. In the frame format of Fig. 5, each frame preferably encapsulates a ~~signal~~ single horizontal scan line of video data. In an alternative embodiment, multiple packets may be used for a horizontal scan line. For example, multiple packets per scan line may be used when a higher data rate video signal such as a high definition digital video data stream is being encapsulated. In Fig. 5, a length field 502 gives the overall length of the GFP frame. A length CRC field 504 provides a cyclic recovery check to allow detection and/or correction of errors of the length field 502. A payload header field 506 includes N bytes of payload header where N is provisionable. A payload field 508 holds the horizontal scan line data.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 8 with the following paragraph:

In one exemplary implementation, payload header field 506 contains a two byte time-stamp counter value that is used to recover the transmit side video client clock on the receive side plus a two byte CRC field. In this example, there is one horizontal scan line per frame and payload data field 508 holds 858 pixels where each pixel is specified by two 10b/8b encoded bytes. There are thus 2145 bytes in payload data field 508 and a total of 2153 bytes in the entire GFP frame. The entire mapping mechanism thus adds only 8 bytes of overhead to the 2145 bytes of the digital video data, less than 0.5% overhead. Due to the use of this framing structure, embodiments of the present invention may remove EAV and SAV framing bytes that SDI employs to delineate horizontal scan lines that identify ~~vertical~~ horizontal blanking intervals. This would reduce the byte total.